State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Otter Signs Fraud Awareness Week Proclamation

BOISE ID – Governor Otter signed a proclamation today declaring this week to be Idaho Fraud Awareness Week. Fraud is a problem that all Idahoans must be aware of in order to avoid becoming vicitms.

Fraud Awareness Week is being sponsored by the Idaho Department of Insurance along with many business, community and insurance industry partners. Department of Insurance Director Bill Deal said, "Insurance fraud alone causes increased premium rates for Idahoans. We want to help the residents of Idaho be proactive in protecting themselves against fraud."

During Fraud Awareness Week Idaho residents are encouraged to attend free fraud awareness seminars that are being held throughout the state. The schedule of locations, times and dates for these classes is available on the Department's website, www.doi.idaho.gov.

The Department recently released a toll free fraud hotline for consumers to call with information on fraudulent insurance activities they may be aware of. The number is 866-939-SCAM.

Fraud is a crime that everyone pays for. The National Insurance Crime Bureau estimates insurance fraud costs Americans nearly \$30 billion each year. According to information from the Northwest Insurance Council, Idahoans are not only paying for fraud with higher insurance rates, but also higher taxes and higher prices for consumer goods.

The Department of Insurance wants to help Idaho residents with any insurance problems, questions or complaints they may have. Call 334-4250 in Boise, 800-721-3272 toll free statewide, or visit the website.

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